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South Viet Nam

REPEATED DISASTERS OF U.S. AND PUPPET TROOPS

★ A Bia : 1,800 enemy troops put out of action in two weeks

★ **Division Americal badly mauled in two provinces South, Southeast of Da Nang : 2,200 casualties within a week**

★ *Puppet Infantry Division 18 crippled, taking in 12 days 1,500 casualties and having 340 deserters*

★ First Cav. thrashed in Chon Thanh region : 460 GIs killed or wounded in two days

★ **A puppet battalion wiped out, another decimated in four days on Western High Plateaux : 600 men knocked out.**

North Viet Nam

On May 30, an unmanned spy plane was downed over Haiphong, bringing the number of U.S. aircraft lost in the DRVN since August 5, 1964 to 3,292

HEAD OF STATE NORODOM SIHANOUK Backs NFL Ten-Point Overall Solution

Head of State of Cambodia Norodom Sihanouk recently sent a message to Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam NFL, voicing his unqualified support for the ten-point overall solution proposed by the NFL.

The message read :

"As the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has presented to the Paris quadripartite Conference a peace plan for an overall solution to the South Viet Nam problem, I wish to assure you, in the name of Sangkum Reastr Niyum and the Khmer people rallied in it, of our unreserved support for this ten-point political programme, the only reasonable one for the return of peace in South Viet Nam.

"In expressing our full support for your peace programme, I reaffirm to you our complete solidarity with the National Front for Liberation which is struggling with heroism and success for the total independence of its country".

Should GIs Still Have to Die for THIEU-KY-HUONG ?

MR. NIXON's May 14 speech reflects the dilemma he is facing especially after the NFL ten-point overall solution was made public. On the one hand, there is his neo-colonialist ambition to cling to South Viet Nam by the agency of a puppet administration, and on the other his care to placate public opinion in the United States which has been fed up with the losing and disastrous war. This explains his obstinacy in dealing with essential problems, namely his refusal to recognize the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, and his refusal to withdraw from South Viet Nam all U.S. and satellite troops without setting any condition. But this also explains the ambiguous wording of his speech which triggered off so many comments in the world press.

It is precisely this ambiguity which has driven the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet clique into a panic. Nguyen Van Thieu hurriedly requested an audience with the U.S. President in the hope of getting some clarification of the latter's intentions. Western agencies disclosed that the Saigon strawman had wished to have a several-day talk with his boss on American territory, but what he finally obtained would be only a few hours' interview on a small island of the Pacific.

Everyone knows that the present ruling team in Saigon owes its survival to U.S.

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In a PLAF attack against Tra Cao position (Tay Ninh province) on Feb. 23, 1969, a battalion of the U.S. First Cav. was wiped out.

Photo : *American tanks destroyed*

AN ALLIANCE OF TRAITORS

THE troupe of the traitors in South Viet Nam had staged full cast with the presentation of the "National Social Democratic Front" with Nguyen Van Thieu as its president. It is an open secret that the U.S. is the stage-manager. The *Los Angeles Time* on April 14 said that Thieu and the U.S. embassy directed this effort.

In fact, the U.S. has long given "top priority" consideration to rallying a force of agents that might serve as a "political basis" for the Thieu-Ky-Huong trio of top traitors. But for all its endeavours the U.S. is still far from its goal. Its losing position has forced it to de-escalate the war step by step and try to cut down gradually U.S. involvement in the war.

Yet, it has not abandoned the dream of seeking a "position of strength". One of the U.S. ploys is to cling to the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration and consolidate it in an attempt to prolong the war of aggression and impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. To this end, the U.S. is going out of its way to create a "political alliance" behind Thieu and embellish the puppet administration with a view to counter-balancing the prestige of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces and at the same time to making use of this organization as a leverage. That is the reason behind the emergence of the "National Social Democratic Front".

It is the U.S. intention to gather as many agents as possible. But the newly created Front only consists of representatives of six "political parties" all notorious for their subservience to the imperialists. The gloomy results of Bunker's and Thieu's efforts have brought to the fore U.S. failure and the isolation of Thieu-Ky-Huong gang, the sharp divergences within the clique itself, between Thieu and other groups, and even between groups in the "Front". Purges and shake-ups, murders or murder attempts under Thieu's direction to eliminate the protégés of Nguyen Cao Ky and Tran Van Huong, as well as the anti-Thieu statements and the close bargaining among various factions of U.S. henchmen have shown how divided the clique of traitors is.

Nhan Dan *(The People)*
May 27, 1969

19th plenary session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (May 29, 1969)

There is No Common Ground Between the N F L Overall Solution and Mr Nixon's "Peace Programme"

declares DRVN representative

ADDRESSING the 19th plenary session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, Ambassador Ha Van Lau, who led the DRVN delegation in the absence of Minister of State Xuan Thuy, gave the lie to the U.S. tendencious allegations that there existed a common ground between the NFL overall solution and Mr. Nixon's "peace programme". He made clear the fundamental difference between those two documents: the NFL solution was prompted by the respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights whereas behind the American "peace programme" lurked Washington's scheme to impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. The United States, the envoy said, claimed that it was for "the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam", but insisted on a "mutual withdrawal of troops", which is tantamount to asking for a price for the withdrawal of American aggressive troops from South Viet Nam. Likewise, it asserted that it respected "the right of the South Vietnamese to self-determination" while keeping in office the rotten and war-like clique of Thieu-Ky-Huong against the South Vietnamese people's aspirations for peace and independence.

After denouncing U.S. war intensification in South Viet Nam and repeated violations of the sovereignty and threats to the security of the DRVN, Ambassador Ha Van Lau warned the Nixon administration against its own hope for an improvement of U.S. position in South Viet Nam. "I am certain", he said, "that the American people will not tolerate Mr. Nixon's prolonging this war which has cost too many American lives and dollars. If the Nixon administration really wants to get its country out of the costliest war in U.S. history, it should end its aggression against Viet Nam, and, as the NFL has rightly pointed out, conclude with other parties concerned agreements on the issues raised in the NFL document on the principles and main content of an overall solution to the Viet Nam problem".

At the same session of the Paris Conference, taking the floor before Mr. Ha Van Lau, NFL representative Tran Buu Kiem stressed that responsibility rested with the United States for the lack of progress at the Paris Conference, as a result of its insistence on "mutual withdrawal of troops". What prevented the South Vietnamese from exercising their right to self-determination, the Front's representative said, was precisely the presence of 600,000 US and satellite troops who tried to impose upon the South Vietnamese people, at the point of their bayonets, a colonial regime under U.S. tutelage.

The NFL delegate believed that the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people could be realized only in the way suggested by the NFL overall solution, that is through free and democratic general elections, the setting up of a constituent Assembly, the elaboration of a constitution and the formation of a coalition government; in the period before elections, political forces representing various social strata and political tendencies in South Viet Nam, including those who were compelled to live abroad for political reasons, in short, all those who stand for peace, independence and neutrality, will enter into negotiations to form a provisional coalition government. Up to now the United States has been eluding this reasonable proposal of the NFL and supporting the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique. In the meantime, the Saigon administration was frenziedly opposing the eventual formation of a coalition government and piling up new crimes against South Viet Nam's townsfolk.

Mr. Tran Buu Kiem concluded, "In putting forward its ten points, the NFL has shown the U.S. an honorable way out of this disastrous and unpopular war unleashed by itself. If the U.S. really desires peace, it should respond seriously to the NFL proposal".

Should GIs Have to Die for Thieu-Ky-Huong?

(Continued from page 1)

illegal military presence in South Viet Nam. The Yankee aggressors have been assigning it the most unsavoury task, that of suppressing all aspirations for peace, democracy and national independence of popular strata in the areas still under their control. The Thieu-Ky-Huong clique has thus outlawed not only communism but also neutralism. All May Day demonstrations were banned by it. Its "freedom of press" has been illustrated up to now by the closing down of 31 newspapers. Its "freedom of religion" has been shown by the imprisonment of Buddhist Superior Thich Thien Minh and many other Buddhist students. Under its rule, the Poulo Condore island penitentiary has seen the total of detainees doubled compared with the Ngo Dinh Diem era and this was disclosed by none other than Ho Ngoc Nhuan, a Saigon M.P. Perhaps, the most truthful image of the present Saigon regime is provided by those wicked desperadoes, commonly nicknamed "ac on", or bravos who sport as ornaments dried ears cut from their own victims' corpses.

This handful of traitors who enrich themselves from the war of aggression waged by the American imperialists against their country and their people, fear peace as owls fear the daylight. Each time the successes of patriotic forces compel a backdown move from the aggressors, they react in a frantic way. They thus displayed their frenzied opposition to Mr. Johnson's decision to cease unconditionally all bombardments of North Viet Nam and acceptance of a quadripartite conference in which Saigon representatives "were free to participate." Sometime later, however, they had to come round and send a delegation to Paris. There again, they raised so many objections about the shape of the Conference table. Finally they had to agree to a round table proposed by the DRVN around which the four delegations sat as equals. Three and half months elapsed during which the puppets' representative coordinated his action with the envoy from Washington to prevent the conference from making any progress. Then there was announced the NFL ten-point overall solution which opened real prospects for settlement. An insolent statement was immediately released by Saigon to throw it overboard.

All this is fully understandable. The NFL ten points have sown confusion in the White House. To the ruling clique in Saigon, they served the purpose of a Damocles' sword. And thereupon Nguyen Van Thieu, flinging about like a madman, tries to fight his people and concurrently circumvent his Yankee masters. In his heart of hearts, he is aware that his doomsday is approaching, and that everywhere in South Viet Nam townsfolk are demanding that his regime be replaced by a peace cabinet favouring serious negotiations for an end to the war. An interesting dispatch from the Japanese agency JPS reported on May 20 that Thieu's wife had stolen away to Tokyo to contact some Japanese businessmen and that his son had been sent to Paris to continue his schooling.

But what is of real importance to us is Washington's behaviour. There is every indication that Mr. Nixon wants to continue in office the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration against wind and tide. In his May 14 speech, hasn't he openly praised the ultra-reactionary 6-point peace programme put forth by Nguyen Van Thieu? And hasn't he also let it be known that his coming Midway meeting with Thieu is aimed at "re-affirming their unity of purpose" which is to keep South Viet Nam under U.S. protection.

Time elapses. Mr. Nixon will receive Thieu at Midway. Meanwhile, the GIs die by the thousands at A Bia and all over South Viet Nam territory.

Should American GIs still have to die for the Thieu-Ky-Huong trotks of stooges so that these can go on receiving indefinitely U.S. manna? This is a question which Mr. Nixon can no longer shirk.

WAR-TIME DEVELOPMENT OF STATE FARMS

By PHAN QUANG

REMARKABLY enough, the four years of resistance against the U.S. war of destruction witnessed a vigorous development of the State farms, leading economic sector of socialist agriculture in the DRVN.

In North Viet Nam, beside the collective sector — the cooperative farms — which accounts for the major part (gathering 95% of the households and tilling 91% of cultivated land, up to the end of 1968) and a very small proportion of private farmers (about 5% of the households), the State farms represent the most advanced form of agricultural production. They are essentially characterized by the fact that relying on the socialist ownership of means of production and operating large-scale production with fairly abundant material and technical equipment supplied by the State, they can apply most up-to-date achievements in agricultural science and production for higher crop output, better stockbreeding and more efficient labour. Turning to full account the advantages of the tropical climate and regarding the growing of special crops and plants and large-scale animal husbandry as their main guiding line, the State farms set themselves the task of contributing to the accumulation of funds for the State and giving examples to agricultural cooperatives how to manage production and apply advanced science and technique.

Except for a few in the plains most of the State farms are located in the midlands' remote mountain areas or amidst new crop fields on the coast. This has been helpful to the redistribution of labour on a nation-wide scale (labour force was formerly highly concentrated in the delta of the Red River) as well as to the consolidation of national defence and strengthening of the security of the Fatherland, as illustrated by the following figures: tens of thousands of hectares of fertile land have been reclaimed where about ten years ago there was only jungle, many new urban centres have sprung up in the regions which were well known for their wilderness, "haunted by ghosts and damped with unwholesome water," as a popular saying runs. In the years of the U.S. war of destruction, the workers of the State farms the core of which was formed by their self-defence units fought most effectively. In 1966-67, not counting their co-ordinated actions with the army, the workers at the State farms fighting on their own shot down 18 U.S. aircraft and fourteen times captured U.S. pilots. In 1968, after the U.S. was forced into "limited bombing" and as from November 1968 had to cease completely and unconditionally the bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN, the State farms south of the 18th parallel took part in hundreds of battles against U.S. aircraft and grounded six more of them and nabbed several more U.S. pilots.

Production at the State farms made a substantial step forward in the four years of the war of destruction. Compared with 1964, the year before the U.S. started its war of destruction, coffee output in 1967 went up by 3.7 times (in 1968 it suffered a temporary drop due to natural calamities). Dried tea bud output in 1968 increased by eight times, and orange output by many times. The growth rate of animal husbandry was less impressive but the herds of milch cows, buffaloes and pigs all recorded a marked rise. The number of pigs, in particular, gained 63% in four years.

The reality of production as well as the results of scientific researches at the State farms have upset many conclusions of French economists in the past. Before the August Revolution, the French colonialists did open some plantations in North Viet Nam but with the sole purpose of appropriating land of the peasants and exploiting dirt cheap labour. Any plantation owner (or his sheriff) was practically a feudal landlord who held full sway over not only his workers and land tenants but also all the farmers in the region. In these conditions, it is understandable that the colonialists were unable to see all the potential of the Vietnamese land and the capabilities of its people. That is why, not a few enterprising Frenchmen themselves came to erroneous conclusions. For instance, they maintained that output of tea buds in Viet Nam could not exceed four tons per hectare and that rubber could only thrive in the southern part of the country. The plantations run by Frenchmen did not grow the *arabica* coffee on the assumption that this species was more vulnerable to pest attacks, though they knew that the quality and economic value of this species was much higher than the *robusta* and *chari* kinds which were widely grown by the French.

Today North Viet Nam's State farms reap on the whole tea-growing area an average output greater by half than the highest planned by the French in the past. We have

(Continued page 7)

In sectic ide spraying in Tan Trao tea plantation.

Rice harvested AT THE FOOT OF HAM RONG BRIDGE

STANDING near the Ham Rong bridge, I could hardly recognize the "bomb pocket" that Ham Rong had been a year before. Were it not for these charred coconut trees on the former site of Nghia Son village now razed to the ground and these broken walls of the indomitable Yen Vuc village which seemed to mount a silent guard on the flank of the dyke of the Ma river like as many forts ready to open fire on the enemy, were it for all these landmarks, I would not have the slightest doubt that I was back again on the fields of Vinh of last year. The bomb craters that has superposed one another were now adorned with a green verdure of young seedlings of the 10th month rice newly transplanted. It was the fourth rice crop since American escalation.

Could we ever count how many times these seedlings, hard hit by the fire of war, had been bent on the flank then strengthened, resolved to stand their ground in spite of 320 attacks? The Yen Vuc women had not overlooked any crimes perpetrated by the Yankee pirates on their native soil. Neither would they forget the date when each enemy plane was shot down. But they could not remember how many times they had, by their own hands, filled the bomb craters on which they were growing this nutritious food plant for the fighters. This had become a daily routine just as their daily meals or the bringing of their weapons to the combat positions for a co-ordinated action with the armymen.

Just close to the dyke by which the young woman guerilla Hien, in her baptism of fire, shuttled back and forth after crossing and recrossing the bridge from the south bank to the north bank of the river to serve ammunition to our troops — Hien was at present a member of the Party Committee in Hoang Hoa district — I met Na, a young specialist in fertilizers and a gunner of 10, busy transplanting rice seedlings. Following the example of her elders, she had been three years ago one of those young girls who began the world by throwing themselves into the fight.

The third production team of which she was a member was in the van of the co-operative in the harvesting, ploughing and transplanting jobs. The reaping of the 5th month rice lasted almost a month. It was immediately followed by preparations for the 10th month rice cultivation. The whole group went to the fields to bring in the crop and do the ploughing. Then, as the harvest drew to its close, the transplanting began. On this combat ground which is the ricefields I have met many old mothers who for three years running had clung to the land to grow vegetables or tend gourd right on the scorched floors of burned houses to get some extra food for the armymen and their own children seeing service. I have also met Luan, a transplanter with so dexterous hands. On her head she wore a mourning band that fluttered in the wind. Her husband had been cut down here, on the same field, when he was minding a sowing plot. He fell and died with the harrow firm in hand. Luan had suppressed her tears, entrusted her five kids to kind people in a safe place, then returned to the fields everyday to resume production and the fighting. The trials had hardened her features now as virile as those of a real fighter.

The inhabitants of Thanh-Hoa have got into the habit of calling the Yen Vuc men "men of steel."

In this valley pockmarked with bombs, not only men but the rice changed, too. As always, there were rice plants planted in straight lines beside bomb craters. Only the names of their varieties have changed and these names have become quite familiar to the people just as the specifications of bullets of all calibres. And the women of Yen Vuc who have been for the past three years accustomed to toting into position the artillery pieces installed in their village, or to bringing them back are just as skilful in the treatment of grain according to the new technique.

In the crucible of war, they have not ceased improving the methods of cultivation. And the rice yield this year was 200 kilos per hectare higher than last year. But it should be born in mind that each grain obtained here was not only soaked with sweat but also with blood.

This year the 5th month rice crop in Yen Vuc was the best ever known: 2.1 tons per hectare. The 3rd team headed by Tuyen chalked up 2.3 tons. And on the "5-ton fields" for two crops people have achieved a record yield: 3 tons of paddy per hectare. Tuyen was engaged in an emulation drive with her husband, now at the front, to accomplish new exploits, he in his and she in her own domain.

On a broken wall in Yen Vuc, I could still decipher these words written in red chalk at the beginning of the fight three years ago "Let us produce twice or thrice what the enemy has destroyed to avenge ourselves".

As can be seen, the Yen Vuc women by their actual deeds, have honoured their pledge.

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Why Is U.S. Aggression in South Viet Nam Doomed to Complete Failure

(Continued from last issue)

*Commentary by Chien Thang**

III. DE-AMERICANISATION OF THE WAR? A VICIOUS CIRCLE!

True meaning of de-Americanisation

FOR more than a year now, the U.S. aggressors have been talking about "de-Americanisation" of the Viet Nam war. This was a major policy elaborated by Johnson following U.S. heavy setbacks early last Spring. Of late American public opinion has underscored Nixon's attachment to this policy. In other words, it is quite to Nixon's liking. From the U.S. point of view, it is just "the honourable way" it is seeking to get out of the Viet Nam war.

What is the **actual meaning** of de-Americanisation?

1. First and foremost, the so-called policy of "de-Americanisation" **is exactly an avowal of U.S. failure in its "local war"** strategy in South Viet Nam.

Their "special war" strategy having gone bankrupt, the U.S. imperialists introduced in mid-1965 their expeditionary troops en masse into South Viet Nam and launched the "local war" strategy in an effort to turn the tide. In the last 4 years, the aggressors have committed 550,000 U.S. expeditionary troops and spent more than 100 billion dollars in their war of aggression in Viet Nam. This substantially Americanised war, though termed as "local" or "limited", **has now become one of the biggest wars in U.S. history.** And it has been the biggest local war of aggression ever made by the U.S. imperialists. Nevertheless, the Americans have been experiencing series after series of better setbacks. Since 1968, the trend has been downwards and they have had to give up their strategic objective number one, namely, "to break the backbone of the V.C.", and fall back on the defensive "clear and hold" strategy. This strategy, as the American press put it, is tantamount to a tacit admission of U.S. abandonment of all hopes for a military win. *Reuter* commented that it was a strategy paving the way for a pull-out. The "de-Americanisation" policy has been reluctantly shaped up in the context of U.S. unquestionable failure in its local war and of U.S. initial important backdown moves, both military and political. In carrying it out the U.S. has made no bones that the originally set objectives should be re-examined and re-adjusted, and that de-Americanisation now had only "limited goals".

Thus, the U.S. "special war" strategy came to a flop and was replaced by the "local war" strategy. Now that the latter has gone to dogs, the Americans are contemplating a return to the former. **To resort to a defeated strategy to salvage another unsuccessful strategy, is a vicious circle which spells out U.S. impasse and failure in its war of aggression in Viet Nam.**

2. De-Americanisation of the war is a move which clearly reflects the very **obdurate nature of the U.S. imperialist aggressors.** Although they have sustained dismal disasters, they are still unwilling to renounce their aggressive design. The **essence** of de-Americanisation is that the U.S. will continue to cling to the Saigon puppet army and puppet administration, strive to put the latter back on its own feet, give the former enough muscle **to replace U.S. troops and, through these stooge agencies, go ahead with its neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam.** Therefore, de-Americanisation does not mean that the U.S. will put an end to the war. It is merely a change in the use of forces for the continuation of the war. This is a very vicious U.S. manoeuvre which consists in playing off Vietnamese against Vietnamese for the realisation of its aggressive scheme. On the one hand, U.S. ruling circles keep trying to mislead public opinion by saying that they too see the need for the U.S. to get out of the Viet Nam war as quickly as possible, but on the other hand they have not bothered to put the lid on their real intention. *USIS*, official mouthpiece of the White House, bluntly wrote on Jan. 30 this year that President Nixon was not for a change in U.S. fundamental objectives in Viet Nam, but only for a more efficient implementation of policy in war and diplomacy for the materialization of these objectives.

Overwhelming odds against de-Americanisation

WHETHER de-Americanisation of the Viet Nam war will come off or not depends, from the U.S. point of view, on three conditions:

1) U.S. casualties must be kept down to a minimum,

2) The puppet troops must be bolstered up,

3) The South Viet Nam Liberation armed forces must be weakened.

(*U.S. News and World Report* disclosed on March 17, 1969 Mr Nixon's programme as follows: to reduce U.S. casualties; concurrently to consolidate the Saigon army; to withdraw U.S. troops at the ratio of one U.S. soldier, pulled out to be superseded by two puppet soldiers having undergone crash training; if everything goes smoothly, to begin troops withdrawal by mid-1969, and after two years the 542,000-strong American Expeditionary Corps will be reduced to a mere U.S. military presence. To put it in a nutshell, the first basis of U.S. calculation in the mapping out of its de-Americanisation scheme is the replacement of each American soldier pulled out by two puppet soldiers. The U.S. now has more than a million troops, consisting of GI's and Saigonese troops on a fifty-fifty basis. If the puppet army manages to double its troop strength (a calculation on paper only because this is beyond the reach of the Americans) then it will be possible to bring the half a million U.S troops home and substitute for them the additional half million puppet troops.

This is like the straw of the drowning and at the same time an admission of the impotence of the U.S. expeditionary troops. With 550,000 U.S. soldiers plus half a million puppet troops at their disposal and after more than 4 years of strenuous efforts, the Americans, nevertheless, have to beat a retreat, called for by serious setbacks. Yet, they now reckon that a million all-puppet troops are enough to prevent their doom. In spite of the American troop build-up in South Viet Nam, the puppet army has remained a weak army. **To believe that the puppet troops can be in a stronger position after the American pull-out is sheer wishful thinking.**

As to the US hope that **South Viet Nam PLAF will grow weaker and weaker,** it has proved quite a wild one. One may ask: Even when the local war was brought to a climax with the U.S. troops being then still able to carry out their counter-offensive strategy, the Americans were unable to check the growth of their opponents; so how could they take the latter's sting out, now that they have reverted to the defensive and given up their dream to "break the V.C. backbone"? *AFP* **remarked on April 3, "The NFL has never been in a stronger position than at the end of its latest general offensive,"** while the Americans themselves acknowledged that the Viet Cong surely could go on like this for a long time—or try something bigger, if he wanted. On the battlefield, by military means, the Americans have already failed to stunt their adversary's spectacular development: unfortunately there are no other means for them to attain the same goal.

In implementation of their de-Americanisation, in recent days U.S. rulers have been egging on the Saigon traitors to intensify military draft, and they have been re-equipping the puppet army. Even so, its plight is far from improving. The increase of its troop strength through military draft has been proportionate to its combat unfitness. This has been clearly evidenced by the unsuccessful U.S. experiments in throwing puppet troops into engagements on the outer fringe. (The Americans tentatively committed puppet Regiment 42 in the Western Highlands to the outer belt. Badly mauled in several actions, this regiment was withdrawn into the inner belt. Likewise, puppet paratroops suffered heavy reverses in Tay Ninh). In the long run, American troops still have to do most of the fighting. Alarmed and puzzled by this fact, Melvin Laird admitted that the Saigon army was still not in a position to take over. This year's spring offensives of the PLAF not only sent U.S. battle casualties rocketing but also inflicted heavy losses on the puppet troops.

That is not all about these mercenaries. As a matter of fact they never had stomach for the fight. De-Americanisation of the war means the shifting on puppet troops who are moving heaven and earth to dodge combat, the brunt of the daily fighting. This will only strike fear into their hearts. The top dogs of the Saigon army and administration themselves have shown great anxiety and uneasiness over this hasty U.S. decision. The French paper, *Le Monde*, commented on April 24, 1968, **"If the Americans have a good chance of de-Americanising the war, they need a surge of unyielding courage to fire the Saigon army into facing an enemy against whom all American power has proved of no avail. But the Saigon régime has never been credited with any military success."**

As to the U.S. hope of vamping up the Saigon administration, it has turned out to be all the more fantastic. American journalists sarcastically queried U.S. rulers' dream of a strong Saigon administration once they recognised that the Saigon army was too weak. Earlier Taylor, known as the father of the "special war" strategy, had complained about the feebleness of the puppet administration. Today, Kissinger, Nixon's top adviser, has acknowledged that "one of the results of the Viet Cong's Tet offensives was to delay—perhaps indefinitely—the consolidation of (Saigon puppets) governmental authority."

De-Americanisation of the war, Nixon's solution to the Viet Nam war, is also a cunning move to iron out the antagonisms between the U.S. and its puppets and induce the public into believing that U.S. rulers are really taking steps to end the war in Viet Nam. U.S. rulers know very well that de-Americanisation of the war is beset with difficulties and frustrations but maintain that it is just the honourable way out for the U.S. imperialists. In point of fact, the aggressors have no sense of honour at all. The honour they are referring to is merely their colonialist interests. **This "honourable way out" of the U.S. rulers is exactly the way which will smear the honour of American progressives still further, and associate the true honour of the American people with the rottenness of the Thieu-Ky-Huong traitorous clique in Saigon.**

Developments on the battlefields over the past 3 months since Nixon took power have been sufficient, short as the period was, to test the so-called "position of strength" and "honourable way out" advocated by the new U.S. President. The history of the U.S. war of aggression against Viet Nam has repeated itself many times. Unquestionably, one lesson can be drawn from it for the Americans and it boils down to this: the more stubborn they are, the more disastrous their defeat will be. Mr. Nixon should not forget this lesson.

ALTHOUGH they have suffered very heavy setbacks, the U.S. aggressors remain very obdurate. They are trying to settle the war from a position of strength and with very brutal and perfidious means, in an effort to impose their neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. On the other hand, our people are winning success after success and maintaining their offensive posture,

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* *Sub-heads and boldfaced emphases are ours* — Ed.

U.S. CHEMICAL WARFARE INTENSIFIED IN SOUTH VIET NAM

A Communiqué released on May 20 by the Committee to Denounce U.S.-puppet War Crimes in South Viet Nam announced that since November 1968 and especially since Nixon's coming to power, chemical warfare had been brought to a higher level of intensity in South Viet Nam by the American imperialists in defiance of public opinion.

On April 21, the Pentagon made public that the appropriations for chemical warfare would run to 350 million dollars in 1969, but this was a far cry from the truth. Senator Mc Carthy revealed that a factory in Maryland alone would spend this year 420 million dollars on the production of items used in chemical and bacteriological warfare. As is known to everybody, any increase in the protection and experimentation by the United States of chemical weapons only portent their wider use in South Viet Nam's battlefields.

In the last six months, in coordination with "mopping-up" operations, air bombings and artillery poundings, the U.S. imperialists have been carrying out hundreds of sprayings of chemical products and noxious gases on immense areas causing serious losses in lives and wealth to the South Vietnamese people.

In Quang Tri, Thua Thien and Quang Nam provinces, already heavily damaged by earlier dousings, the U.S. imperialists have been continuing their savage warfare since November 1968. Particularly heinous was the fact that on Feb. 12, 1969 during a terrorist raid on Thuong Tan hamlet, Binh Nam village, Thang Binh district, Quang Nam province, they drove into a shelter a dozen of old people aged from 64 to 67 and a pregnant woman near her time, then cut all of them down with grenades and toxic gas.

At the end of March and early April 1969, in Ba Ria and Long Khanh province, they simultaneously mounted "sweeps" and chemical sprinklings on Phuoc Buu village, Xuyen Moc district, ruining all crops. In the meantime, Australian mercenaries for ten days running dumped U.S.-made CS chemicals on a locality of Nui Dat area.

On May 5, for three hours on end, the U.S. imperialists sprayed noxious chemicals on Bao Dinh village, Ba Ria province, poisoning many people and ravaging vast crop fields.

In the course of similar operations in Feb. 1969 on many areas of Gia Dinh, Long An, Bien Hoa and My Tho provinces, more than 200 people were killed and thousands of others affected.

In Tan Huong, Tan Ly Dong and Than Cuu Nghia villages, My Tho province, some thirty people were killed and more than 1,000 others affected. In several villages of Thu Thua district, Long An province, hundreds of hectares of fields and orchards along the East Vam Co Dong River were damaged in one day by toxic chemical showered by C.123 cargo planes.

More recently, the Americans dumped chemicals on many localities of Ben Tre province already seriously hurt by the same products, and thousands of hectares of fields grown with coconut and banana-trees and other crops were devastated. On Nov. 15, 1968 in Que Son village, urban district, same province, 312 people were grievously poisoned by chemical poisons in highly concentrated doses. On Dec. 24, 1968 in Thu Duc and Tan Loi villages, same district, over 100 people among them children, were also dangerously affected. On Lunar New Year's Day (Feb. 16, 1969) in the vast region from the Giong Trom River to Ben Tre town, hundreds of hectares of ricefields were damaged by toxic chemicals.

In March 1969, in Tay Ninh and Thu Dau Mot provinces, chemical sprayings on Ta Pang and Thanh An villages caused more than 200 serious cases of poisoning.

The same thing happened in Go Cong, Kien Phong, Tra Vinh and Can Tho provinces. In April 1969, tens of villages fell victim several times to U.S. chemical warfare which destroyed thousands of hectares of orchards and produced hundreds of cases of poisoning. In particular, in Cau Ke district, Tra Vinh province, on April 11, U.S. toxic chemicals were extensively sprinkled and damaged all crops in an area 30 kilometres in length. In January 1969, Nham Ai village, Can Tho province, was continually ravaged by the same products.

An Giang and Ca Mau provinces were also targets of similar attacks. In West An Dien village and several hamlets of An Trach village, on Nov 8, 1968 about 100 hectares of ricefields and over 1,400 hectares of orchards were hit.

The Committee to Denounce U.S.-Puppet War Crimes in South Viet Nam strongly condemns and indignantly exposes before public opinion at home and abroad those savage crimes of the American aggressors and insistently calls on international democratic organizations, international information centres, national committees to denounce U.S. imperialists crimes in Viet Nam, lawyers, scientists, democratic personalities and the world's peoples including the American people, to take appropriate measures to stay the U.S. imperialists bloody hands and to demand that the U.S. government stop at once their war of aggression against Viet Nam.

U.S. Satellite Troops' South Viet Nam Tribulations

A powwow was held last week in Bangkok by representatives of countries having shipped in troops for U.S. aggression against Viet Nam. For two decades Viet Nam has been in the clutches of the U.S. which has for four years now cynically thrown into the adventure the weight of an expeditionary force over half a million strong. An obdurate aggressor, it has tried to reiterate what it did against the Korean people in 1950 by preaching for an "anti-communist" international crusade in Viet Nam. Pressure or promises of all kinds however have enabled the American imperialists to pressang only 68,000 men (up to August 15, 1968), that is a little over 12 per cent of the U.S. expeditionary corps.

These mercenaries have been sent by the governments whose existence depends entirely on the Americans' subsidies and bayonets (South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines) or by countries closely tied up to the U.S. chariot politically, militarily economically and financially (Australia, New Zealand).

The share contributed by each country is symbolic, even ludicrously small compared with the U.S. expeditionary build up: 8 per cent for South Koreans (although this represents a heavy burden for Seoul) 0.1 per cent for New Zealanders.

In South Viet Nam, the infantry divisions *Tiger* and *White Horse*, the Marine brigade *Blue Dragon* and the Sappers' unit *White Dove* from South Korea (over 40,000 men in all) operate mainly in the coastal provinces of central Trung Bo between Da Nang and Nha Trang, several hundred kilometres north-east of Saigon. The Thai Division *Black Panther* and some elements of Thai navy are assigned to the Long Binh and Long Thanh area, some thirty kilometres east of Saigon. The 7,000 Assistes of the "Royal Australian Regiment" are stationed in the Baria area, about sixty kilometres south-east of Saigon together with the only New Zealand (artillery) battalion.

As for the Philippines, the 1,500 men that remain of the "civic action brigade" are committed to Tay Ninh province (500 of them were withdrawn from South Viet Nam in 1968 for lack of fund).

These mercenaries are composed either of adventurers of all kinds, even of old convicts, all cruel and sanguinary, or of poverty stricken youth, or of soldiers edged against their will to kill and be killed in order to defend a "freedom" of which they themselves are deprived and to prop up a "government" of disreputable fellows whose rottenness is conspicuous. This means that their morale, like that of the GIs, is by far their Achilles tendon. Like the GIs, they have committed heinous crimes against our fellow-countrymen, particularly the South Koreans who have put whole provinces to fire and sword.

However, in Viet Nam as everywhere else, crimes will not remain long unpunished. Avenging the Cu Mong massacre, a few months after February 1967, the patriotic forces wiped out a South Korean battalion at Quang Thanh, Quang Ngai province, inflicting 420 casualties upon the criminals. The South Korean troops have dearly paid for their blood debt, having 6,115 men killed or wounded up to the end of November 1968. The Division *Tiger* and Brigade *Blue Dragon* were the hardest hit.

Since the beginning of the general offensives and uprisings in February 1968, mercenary casualties have been serious. Let's mention only some of their most striking setbacks in the last sixteen months:

— February 3, 1968, at Cu Mong mountain pass, south-south west of Qui Nhon, two South Korean companies wiped out;

— Night of September 20, 1968, a Thai battalion entirely put out of action at Binh Son airfield, near Long Thanh after a 30 minutes' engagement.

— November 1, 1968, an Australian company decimated at Suoi Cat, near Xuan Loc, 62km east-northeast of Saigon;

— November 17, 1968, a South Korean company knocked out at Thanh Que, near Hoi An, south-southeast of Da Nang;

— Night of February 22, 1969, a reinforced battalion and two companies of Thai mercenaries written off the counterroll at Bau Loi and Nuoc Trong near Long Binh, some twenty kilometres northeast of Saigon;

March 7, 1969, 400 South Korean soldiers knocked out of the charge in Nui Ngang hilly region, 52km south of Da Nang;

— April 15, 1969, at Hon Tuong, Tuy Hoa region, 345km south-southeast of Da Nang, 70 South Korean troops killed or wounded, including the lieutenant general commanding the South Korean forces in South Viet Nam and the colonel commanding Regiment 28, Division *White Horse*;

— Night of May 11 and May 12 1969 a Thai battalion and two companies struck off the strength at Binh Son airfield.

These heavy setbacks at the hands of the PLAF sustained by the mercenaries of U.S. satellite countries have impaired their initial zeal and further sagged their morale. The reverses of the GIs, the patent bankruptcy of the U.S. adventure in Viet Nam, the growing opposition of the world's peoples to U.S. aggression which has not even spared the increasingly large sections of the population in their respective countries, all this put together stamps with the seal of doom Washington's policy of making war with the blood of other peoples. The recent Bangkok meeting can do nothing against this inexorable course of history.

VIET NAM AND THE WORLD

News from LAOS

Xieng Khoang Town Liberated

AFTER powerful attacks on the enemy encampment, the Laotian patriotic armed forces recaptured on May 21 Phu Khe area, west of Xieng Khoang provincial capital, *KPL* reported.

Initial reports said the Laotian patriots swept away the enemy encampment, killing many rightist troops, bringing down 2 U.S. warplanes sent in as reinforcements and capturing two 105mm guns and other firearms. At the same time, the Laotian patriotic armed forces hard hit the rightist troops at Dong Dau, southwest of Xieng Khoang town, wiping out 42 enemy and capturing or destroying many weapons.

Attacks were launched on the same day on enemy garrisons in the vicinity of the town, causing more casualties to them. On may 22 at 22 hours Xieng Khoang town was completely liberated by the patriots, and in engagements at the airfield 70 enemy troops were killed.

Thus, the U.S. and rightist forces have so far lost about 1,000 men and 29 aircraft in their desperate nibbling operation against the free zone of Xieng Khoang.

THE CANADIAN PEOPLE BACK VIET NAM'S STRUGGLE

"WE Canadian people and women feel the greatest sympathy for the valiant and indomitable Vietnamese people. Your resistance against American aggression for national salvation has been an incentive for our struggle. All our words and deeds to support you spring from our conscience and admiration. We are aware that Viet Nam fights not only for her independence and freedom but also for the freedom of other nations." So said Mrs Murray, Vice-President of the Congress of Canadian Women, during her friendly visit to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in May 1968. Hers was representative of the general feeling of progressives in Canada who, though living next door to the United States, very far from Viet Nam, daily follow and actively support the latter's just fight without being misled by the U.S. imperialists' huge propaganda machine.

RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE, RIGHTEOUS DEEDS

INDEED, there is at present a host of organizations working for Viet Nam in Canada. From Ontario bordering on the United States to the remotest villages at the far end of the Five Great Lakes peninsula, anti-Yankee meetings in protest against the Trudeau government's sale of weapons to the American aggressors in Viet Nam, boycotts of student-enrolling by Saranwrap and Dow (*) companies, campaigns for a funds for Viet Nam... have rapidly assumed a mass character.

Intellectuals, among them many professors such as Donwillmot from York College, Kay MacPherson, President of the Toronto Reception Committee... and students, have coordinated their actions with peace fighters, in organizing many "Viet Nam Days" and "Weeks of Solidarity with Viet Nam". The students' demonstrations in front of the U.S. Consulate Generals in Toronto and Hamilton on April 4, 1966 under the mottoes "Viet Nam to the Vietnamese", "Withdraw immediately U.S. forces from Viet Nam", "End Canada's complicity with the United States" was a memorable gesture still remembered by workers and students in other places. Many talks on Viet Nam have been given in various colleges, drawing hundreds of listeners. Mrs Mac Pherson, ex-President of the *Voice of Canadian Women*, told her Vietnamese friends that the stories about South Viet Nam PLAF heroines Ta Thi Kieu, Nguyen Thi Ut... have provided the Canadian women with new notions of life and work.

As the movement develops, the methods of struggle multiply. Canadian peace fighters do not militate only among the masses but also among the M.P.s and clergymen, requesting them "to support Viet Nam in order to uphold the truth. "Recently, many clergymen and M.P.s from the New Democratic Party have raised their voices against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam and demanded that the Trudeau government end its complicity with the United States in this issue.

Canadian peace organizations and students have paid much attention to help and find jobs for American draft-dodgers seeking refuge in Canada — 15,000 in 1968 — for they realize that one more draft-dodger means one less soldier for the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggressive wars.

Canadian women are very keen and zealous to support Viet Nam. Canadian progressives and the whole world warmly praise Mrs Claire Culhane, a fifty-year-old mother who fasted from October 1 to 10, 1968, sitting all the while in front of the Parliament for the United States' ending of its bombing of North Viet Nam and against the Canadian government's backing the U.S. in the Viet Nam war. Mothers and women in the *Voice of Canadian Women* and *Union of Canadian Women Strike for Peace* have staged anti-Yankee marches for women only. In Summer 1967, on the 100th founding anniversary of Canada, the *Voice of Canadian Women* invited women from 25 countries to a seminar on Viet Nam to denounce the savage crimes of the American troops against South Vietnamese women and children and enlist support from women the world over for the fighting Vietnamese people.

A quiet, persistent, protracted movement still going on is that of knitting pullovers for Vietnamese women and children. More than 1,000 women have taken part in it, and since 1966 six shipments of 3,000 pullovers and blankets have reached Viet Nam. These lines printed on the leaflets to agitate for the movements are imbued with a mother's love: "Once freedom and peace are restored in Viet Nam, the children there will leave their air-raid shelters and bathe in the sun of freedom."

VIET NAM WILL WIN!

FULLY sympathizing with the hard but glorious fight of the Vietnamese people, Canadian progressives have given a warm welcome to the Vietnamese delegations visiting their country. In Montreal, during the *Western Hemisphere Conference for an End to the U.S. Imperialists' Aggressive War in Viet Nam* which was attended by delegations of the DRVN and the South Viet Nam NFL in November 1968, the townsfolk displayed such banners as "Viet Nam will win!", "Long live Ho Chi Minh!", "Long live the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation!" The speech by the NFL delegate scheduled for 45 minutes, in fact lasted one and a half hour because of repeated ovations. In the evening of January 29, 1969, in Montreal, after Hoang Bich Son, head of another visiting NFL delegation has finished his press conference, he was requested by a colour television agency to speak to the Ottawa people about the heroic South Vietnamese resistance against American aggression. Everywhere, in meetings gathering thousands of delegates from various popular strata as well as in the talks between the Vietnamese delegations and professors and students in their hundreds, everybody voiced his admiration of the Vietnamese people's fight and confidence in their complete victory. Said a mother from the *Union of Canadian Women Strike for Peace* to the Vietnamese delegates, "So far we know nothing about Viet Nam and her people, but her resistance against aggression has deeply moved our hearts. Today while meeting you Vietnamese friends, we offer you the hearts of the Canadian women and ask you to tell the Vietnamese children and women that in

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Mrs Claire Culhane stages a hunger strike in front of Canada Parliament House.

Meeting Marks Week of Solidarity With African Peoples

ON May 28, 1969, the Viet Nam Committee of Afro-Asian Solidarity held an evening meeting in Hanoi to mark the Week of Solidarity with African Peoples (May 22 to 28).

Taking the floor at the gathering, Hoang Bac, the Committee's Deputy Secretary General, outlines the history of African countries' national liberation movement.. He warmly hailed their achievements in the struggle against imperialism and against old and new colonialism headed by the U.S., for national liberation and independence.

After exposing the dark designs and perfidious manoeuvres of the imperialists and colonialists to suppress revolutionary movement in Africa, Hoang Bac expressed his firm confidence that, with the support of socialist countries, of Asian, African and Latin American countries and of progressives all over the world, the African peoples will certainly secure final victory in their glorious cause and will thereby bring an active contribution to the universal drive for national independence, democracy, peace and social progress.

Participants in the meeting passed a resolution supporting African peoples and thanking them for their valuable support for the Vietnamese people's resistance against U.S. aggression.

A BIA,

(Continued from page 8)

war correspondent quoted on May 20 paratroop Captain Gerald Harkins, who survived an assault on A Bia, as saying, "*All you see were hands and rifle muzzles sticking out of slits in the bunkers. They (the PLAF) sprayed the area and threw hand grenades and we had to get to these bunkers, bunker by bunker.*"

On May 28, *UPI* reported "An army paratrooper who saw friends killed and wounded as he climbed to the top of the hill said the 10-day battle that ended last week was 'sheer suicide'".

U.S. losses were particularly serious. In 2 weeks, from May 11 to May 25, nearly 1,820 U.S. paratroops were killed or wounded. Of the 3 battalions of the 101st Airborne, one was put out of action and the 2 others were decimated. Assuredly because of this, the G.I's have nicknamed A Bia "Hamburger Hill". There is every indication that Operation *Apache Snow* is going to add up to the already long list of military mistakes of the Americans in South Viet Nam.

HOIST BY ITS OWN PETARD

THE Yankee military claim that the objective is worth the cost: to prevent PLAF attacks on the Hue sector.

There is no fact to back such a claim.

While the 14 enemy elite battalions were bogged down in the hilly area (11 at A Bia), the PLAF sprang into action in other areas of Hue sector. Enemy positions in the ancient imperial city were hard hit. On the night of May 11, the main base of the 101st Airborne Southeast of Hue, that of the 3rd Brigade of this division northwest of the city, a field Command H.Q. of the same division at Dong Tranh west-southwest of Hue, and some 20 other targets in this area as well as the whole enemy defence line south of the DMZ and in the Quang Tri sector came under fire. At Dong Tranh, 400 GIs of 3 companies and one armoured squadron were put out of action. Isn't this reminiscent of Khe Sanh where, early last year, 6,000 of Westmoreland's best troops were pinned down and 40,000 others poised in the surrounding areas to fly to the rescue of the entrenched camp, while the PLAF stormed the coastal cities and areas and seized control of Hue for weeks? When they are drawn into a peripheric area, the Americans necessarily leave a vacuum in their rears, and that is just what our Southern compatriots turned to good account by inflicting cruel losses on them, at "Hamburger Hill" as well as in the coastal fringe. Thus, A Bia seems to be one more trap in which the would-be trappers are caught. No wonder that Westmoreland, whose bravado can only match his obstinacy in error, immediately took up the cudgels for his associates in the Pentagon East who are still ready to sacrifice their men "to military pride".

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the faraway hemisphere Canadian old mothers and women are turning their thoughts towards Viet Nam and praying for your speedy victory."

SO long as the obdurate and perfidious American imperialists do not give up their scheme to invade South Viet Nam, the peace- and justice-loving people the world over, among them the Canadian people, will struggle against the Yankee aggressors and actively support and help the Vietnamese people until final victory. This is evidenced by daily acts. From Canada we have heard that on April 6, 1969, people in Ottawa and Montreal turned into the streets to coordinate their actions with the American people's new drive against the Nixon administration's stubbornness in the settlement of the Viet Nam issue.

The Vietnamese people are grateful to the Canadian people for their valuable support and help and consider it a practical stimulus to their fight against U.S. imperialism for national salvation.

(*) *Saranwrap and Dow companies have branches in Canada. They have contracts to produce napalm bombs and toxic chemicals for the U.S. Army to kill the South Vietnamese people.*

FROM CONFOUNDED LIES TO IRRESPONSIBLE QUIBBLES

IN face of their bitter failure, responsible American officials try to make people believe that an important HQ of the PLAF is on A Bia mountain, a peak 937 metres above sea level. It should be recalled that it is an area where the Truong Son Cordillera culminates to 1,771 metres, bristling with hundreds of mountains and hills, each presenting no particular strategic significance more than the others.

On the other hand, to minimize their losses, they contradict themselves while trying to shift the blame for the disaster onto one another. However, the U.S. military spokesman in Saigon had to concede that American casualties in the week during which the bloodiest battles were fought at A Bia had been the highest ever in the past one year or so. As for the White House spokesman, he admitted that the battle (for A Bia) had been "very costly". The U.S. command released to the press figures of the dead and wounded on which *AFP* commented on May 21 as follows: "*This official casualty toll is substantially lighter to that published by paper correspondents who covered the final assault*".

To shrug off his responsibility, Melvin Laird, reported *AP* (May 25), "*avoided any stand whether he endorses specifically the conduct of the battle of A Bia mountain*".

As for U.S. military, driven to the wall, they declared that Kennedy's "complaint should be registered with the White House not the military".

But we should do justice to these military by recalling that these "irresponsible" sacrifices of G.I's to exert "maximum pressure on the enemy" in the vain search of a "position of strength" at the Paris Conference stem logically from the criminal obstinacy of Nixon to stick to the imperialist objectives set by his White House predecessor: to maintain U.S. troops in South Viet Nam and the tottering puppet regime of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique in Saigon so as to oppose the imprescriptible rights of our compatriots to freely decide their own destiny without outside interference.

WHY IS U.S. AGGRESSION IN SOUTH VIET NAM DOOMED TO COMPLETE FAILURE

(Continued from page 4)

and they are perseveringly stepping up their fight until final victory.

The struggle between our people and their adversary has now reached a stage where the test of strength in all respects is very grim and complicated. It is a test of will and resolve, a test of the actual strength on the battlefield, a test of strength on both the military and political fronts.

In this fight, our armed forces and people are resolved to have this showdown with the enemy until his defeat.

Our people will certainly achieve complete victory because our line of resistance to U.S. aggression for national salvation and our line of people's war are very sound and creative. We are strong morally with our determination to fight and to win, and materially with our ever growing force which is constantly improving qualitatively, with our abundant experiences, ours kilful fighting methods and our favourable combat position. We have a valiant front line and a solid rear-base and enjoy the vigorous approval and support of the brotherly socialist countries, the world's peoples, and American progressives.

We have enough strength to carry on our fight until complete triumph. The more the U.S. drags on the war, the greater its difficulties and the heavier its failure. So long as it persists in its aggression against our country, we shall continue to fight to a finish.

The End

War-Time Development...

(Continued from page 3)

achieved notable and stable results in the growing, tending, gathering and processing of *arabica* coffee. The Vietnamese agricultural workers and agronomists have succeeded in wiping out such insects as were regarded indestructible by the French plantation owners. Rubber is growing luxuriant in many parts of North Viet Nam. In the past year, the Tan Trao State farm in Tuyen Quang began reaping its first crop on a dozen hectares of five-year orange trees, each hectare yielding an average from 25 to 30 tons of fruit.

As in all other enterprises, ever higher labour productivity is the prime target of our State farms' endeavours. We have been striving to mechanize the cultivation of many kinds of trees and crops in a country with heavy rainfalls, many flooded fields and steep hill-lands. Many farms have recorded valuable results in this score. The Tam Dao farm in Vinh Phu province has mechanized 95% of its rice-planting process which helped cut down by three-quarters the number of workdays per hectare put in by the co-ops while raising rice output by 50% to 70%. The Chi Linh co-op in Hai Hung province has mechanized all its work in planting, tending and gathering sweet potatoes, thereby cutting down by four-fifths the number of workdays per hectare put in by the co-ops in the area. These initial results have opened up very bright prospects not only for the State farms but also for agricultural production in our country as a whole.

The State farm workers have displayed great ingenuity and industry which stems from their profound political awareness and advanced production techniques. Labour Hero Lam Quang Tinh at the Cuu Long State farm in Hoa Binh province has had many innovations to his credit in the utilization of tractors on steep hills. The woman worker Nguyen Thi Khoa at the Tan Trao State farm in the past year picked 24,339 kilos of tea buds in 209 days, or 116.4 kilos a day. If one knows that each kilo of green tea contains an average of 1,500 buds, one cannot help marvelling at the speed and dexterity with which Khoa collected tea buds in a second, and so she did not for a day but for months on end. Of the seven members of her team, six gathered each ten tons of tea buds upwards in the past year. At the To Hieu State farm, Son La province Phan Thi Thanh, another woman worker, for three consecutive years took the lead in picking cotton, having once netted 250 kilos of cotton seeds per day.

Such achievements are perhaps remarkable performances not only by our standards but also by other countries'.

In the years to come, our socialist agriculture will continue to develop in two forms: the collective farms (which account for the bulk) and the State farms. But through its work and achievements, the State farms are showing agricultural co-ops the best way to run production and carry out technical revolution, and by so doing give them a glimpse of their great prospective expansion made possible by the new socialist mode of production.

Military Operations

(Continued from page 8)

wounded 100 GIs and downed 4 choppers. The following day, another motorized unit, waylaid, lost 10 tanks.

Results of these two days: 510 enemy troops including 460 GIs put out of action, 42 vehicles (35 tanks and armoured cars) and 7 cannons and howitzers destroyed, 4 choppers grounded.

IN WESTERN HIGH PLATEAUX: 600 ENEMY TROOPS PUT OUT OF ACTION

ON May 21, the PLAF wiped out puppet Ranger Battalion 5 at **Tan Canh**, about 40 km north-northwest of Kontum, near **Dak To**, inflicting 300 casualties. On May 22 and 23, they intercepted the enemy's rescue party. On May 24, puppet Ranger Battalion 1 lost 220 men and many dozen firearms; on May 23, Dak To airfield was bombarded, 50 GIs killed or wounded and 4 vehicles destroyed.

BALANCE - SHEET OF PLAF ATTACKS FROM MAY 11 TO 21

Giai Phong *Press Agency has just given the balance-sheet of PLAF attacks in the period between May 11 and 21, 1969*:

– 485 enemy positions in 25 towns and 69 other urban centers stormed, including 6 regiment CPs and brigade HQs, 17 division HQs, 1 army corps HQ, 1 field HQ, 30 airfields, 2 naval bases and 20 logistic bases,

– 30,000 enemy troops (13,000 G.Is and satellite troops) killed, wounded or captured, 20 battalions or equivalent units wiped out or badly mauled.

– 700 military vehicles (325 tanks and armoured cars) 375 aircraft downed or destroyed, 25 vessels sunk or burnt, 62 ammo or fuel depots destroyed.

Military Operations

U.S. DISASTER AT A BIA: 1,800 G.I. CASUALTIES FROM MAY 12 TO 25

IN the hilly region west of Hue, 14 enemy battalions composed mainly of Brigade 3, U.S. "Para" Division 101 and Marines took part in Operation *Apache Snow* whose focus was **A Bia**, on Hill 937, about fifty kilometres West, Southwest of Hue, in the Truong Son range separating Viet Nam from Laos. Here are the main engagements:

May 12: Simultanously with the new wave of offensives launched throughout South Viet Nam, the PLAF attacked a series of American CPs and encampments in the area covered by Operation *Apache Snow* and the immediate rear of the enemy: 490 GIs put out of action and 40 vehicles destroyed.

May 14: A U.S. position on **Hill 1078**, 10 km north of A Bia destroyed, 3 American companies wiped out, 8 cannons and 4 radio stations destroyed.

From May 14 to 18: All the 4 battalions of Para Brigade 101 thrown into the battle. Severe enemy losses: 600 GIs killed or wounded, Battalion 4 put out of action, 6 choppers downed.

May 21 and 22: 250 G.I.s wiped out (100 from Battalion 1) Initial battle count of the fortnight ending May 25: 1,820 enemy troops mostly GIs from Para Division 101 put out of action. The Americans began evacuating A Bia.

DIVISION AMERICAL BADLY MAULED: 2,200 CASUALTIES FROM MAY 12 TO 18

THE area covered by this American division made up of Infantry Brigades 196, 198 and 11, includes the provinces of **Quang Tin** and **Quang Ngai**, 40-170 kilometres south southeast of Da Nang. Its H.Q. is at **Ky Ha**, near Chu Lai, its bases at **Chu Lai, Trung An**, etc. Many battalions from its three brigades suffered serious casualties, chiefly Brigade 198. In total, from May 12 to 18, 2,200 GIs were killed or wounded. A mixed battalion, 8 companies and 4 battalion CPs were wiped out, 2 other battalions and the CP of Brigade 198 decimated, 72 planes and helicopters downed or wrecked, 50 vehicles and 40 ordnance pieces destroyed.

PUPPET INFANTRY DIVISION 18 CRIPPLED: GLOOMY PROSPECT OF "VIETNAMIZATION" OF THE WAR

THIS division stationed in Long Khanh province (capital: Xuan Loc, 62 km east-northeast of Saigon) is one of the divisions set up to assume new combat tasks according to the plan of "Vietnamization" of the war set afoot by Washington. It is supported by elements of the First Cav.

On May 21, in a 90 minutes' battle, an American battalion was wiped out at **Nui Dat**, near **Tuc Trung** (66 km northeast of Saigon), 560 GIs killed or wounded, 6 cannons destroyed and 7 choppers grounded. The following day, another American division had 150 men put out of action, 8 vehicles and 2 cannons destroyed, 3 choppers shot down northeast of Tuc Trung. The next day, a battalion of puppet Infantry Division 18 coming to the rescue of the GIs was violently intercepted at **Tam Bung**, Southeast of Tuc Trung and took 200 casualties including a major.

Let us recall that Infantry Division 18 suffered two serious reverses on May 12 and 19 and in this length of time had 900 men wiped out, 76 vehicles destroyed, 10 choppers downed, 3 battalions knocked out, another one badly mauled. Besides, in the same time, 340 men of the division deserted. The unit was practically crippled.

FIRST CAV. TROUNCED AT CHON THANH, 460 GIs PUT OUT OF ACTION

THE battle unfolding on May 23 and 24 in **Chon Thanh** region, 70 km north of Saigon, caused heavy losses to the U.S. First Air Cavalry Division.

On May 23, an encampment of its Brigade 2 at **Minh Thanh**, 10 km west-northwest of Chon Thanh, was stormed by the PLAF who put out of action 300 GIs and destroyed 7 cannons and mortars and 7 vehicles.

On the same night, the patriotic forces also assaulted a puppet company stationed nearby. In the small hours of May 23, they intercepted two motorized columns heading for Chon Thanh and wrecked 25 tanks and armoured cars, killed or

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A BIA, *A New U.S. Disaster*

UPROAR IN WASHINGTON

THE military operations since the second week of May in the hilly area west-southwest of Hue have provoked a notable stir in American public opinion, because of the very heavy losses inflicted by the PLAF on the enemy forces involved in Operation *Apache Snow*, especially in the battle for A Bia where the 3rd Brigade of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division and elements of the U.S. 9th Marine Regiment were badly mauled. Official circles in Washington have been strongly critical of the intensification of the war in South Viet Nam of the Nixon Administration, the result of which can be nothing more than an escalation of American casualties already unbearable for Washington. *AP* quoted May 21 Senator Edward Kennedy as saying that "it was both senseless and irresponsible to continue to send our young men to their deaths to capture hills and positions that have no relation to ending this conflict." He added, "*American lives are too valuable to be sacrificed for a false sense of military pride.*" Other influential senators, including Senate Democrat majority leader Mike Mansfield, shared the views of their Massachusetts colleague.

Nixonian men have been trying to face the music with justifications of Operation *Apache Snow*. From the 101st Airborne Division commander to Defence Secretary Melvin Laird, they have on many occasions made declarations on this subject, poohpoohing Edward Kennedy as having "*no military background whatsoever*" (*AP* May 23) and arguing that this well justified operation constituted a very good means to decimate the enemy, forestall his attacks and "*keep maximum military pressure on him*" (*AP* May 22).

However, a rough analysis of the situation suffices to knock the bottom out of their assertions.

ANOTHER BLUNDER OF THE PENTAGON EAST

WAS Operation *Apache Snow* called for militarily?

It is common knowledge that the Americans stake everything on the fire-power and mobility of their troops. Yet the area covered by *Apache Snow*, one of Viet Nam's most rugged areas with deep valleys rimmed by hills and jungled mountains, is the aptest to restrict the G.Is' "trump-cards" to the maximum and allow the adversary to bring into full play his fortes. No wonder immediately after its launching, *Apache Snow* bumped against boundless difficulties which doomed it to failure. *UPI*

(Continued page 7)

Ben Tre Province Liberation People's Committee Elected

A political congress was held on May 20 in Ben Tre to elect the province's Liberation People's Committee.

Addressing delegates from district and village people's councils and liberation people's committees and representatives of administrative organs, mass organizations and armed forces, the NFL provincial branch representative in his political report highlighted the achievements of the province's people and armed forces especially since the 1968 *Tet* offensives. He announced that revolutionary power had been set up in 72 villages and 4 districts and controlled two-thirds of the provincial territory with 500,000 out of a 650,000 total population.

The gathering voted into office a nine-member provincial liberation people's committee which immediately went into a session to work out a program of action to concurrently drive ahead the resistance to U.S. aggression and improve the people's living standard.

SAIGON

RAILWAYMEN THREAT GENERAL STRIKE

Giai Phong Press Agency Saigon correspondent reported that on May 15 over 300 delegates representing 3,000 railwaymen had attended an extraordinary meeting at the HQ of the "Railwaymen T.U." in Saigon. The delegate strongly condemned the South Viet Nam Railway leading committee's procrastination and refusal to meet the railwaymen's wage lift demand. They unanimously passed a resolution requesting that the leading committee be replaced. They decided to launch a general strike in case their claim was not satisfied. A one-hour token strike was staged by them on May 12, which brought South Viet Nam railway to a complete standstill.

STUDENTS OPPOSE MILITARY TRAINING

ON May 3, at a military training session, all the students of the Faculty of Medicine in Saigon approved a petition demanding that the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration cancel the order for compulsory military training of students. The signatories to the petition argued that the students should devote their time to study. In face of their combativeness and their determination, the American officers in charge had to suspend the drill.

The same day, 1,000 students of the Faculty of Letters also requested the (puppet) "National Assembly" to rescind the students' military training act, which action showed that all the 17 faculties of the Saigon university have joined in the protest.